



Let's Talk Indigenous Languages

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will be holding public hearings in Adelaide, the Utopia Homelands and Alice Springs as part of its inquiry into language learning in Indigenous communities.

The Committee will hear evidence from a range of people including Indigenous language groups, principals and teachers, linguists and interpreter trainers from urban, regional and remote areas.

The Committee Chair Shayne Neumann stated 'At the Committee's meetings in Adelaide, Utopia Homelands and Alice Springs we will be discussing the importance of Indigenous languages and the benefits of language projects in strengthening Indigenous identity, education and employment outcomes and measures to improve Indigenous interpreting and translating services.

'The Committee recognises the dedicated local Indigenous community organisations and individuals throughout Australia who are working to maintain and revive Indigenous languages – the first Australian languages. The Committee looks forward to hearing from people based in regions of South Australia and the Northern Territory involved with Indigenous language projects.'

Public hearing program

Mon 2 April – Adelaide, Town Hall, David Spence Room, 1pm-5pm

Tues 3 April – Utopia Homelands, Arlparra Secondary School, 2.30pm-4.30pm

Wed 4 April – Alice Springs, Centre for Appropriate Technology, 9am-4.30pm

The hearings will be broadcast live (audio only) from Adelaide, Utopia Homelands and Alice Springs subject to network coverage via:

http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

Information about the inquiry including programs can be found at the inquiry's website: www.aph.gov.au/languages. The Committee will be travelling to Broome, Halls Creek, Darwin and Nhulunbuy in early May. The Committee expects to table its report into language learning in Indigenous communities during the second half of the year.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair Mr Shayne Neumann on (02) 6277 4755.

For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au